

# Burke CONNECTION

The Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael (right) of Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke shared a message after the conference that he has been spreading in synagogues, mosques, his own congregation, and anyone else: embodied faith. He is with his wife the Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael who serves the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Sterling.



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Rise to the Occasion

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# Chief Releases Name of Officer in Shooting Death

**Officer used deadly force in two prior cases, both determined to be lawfully justified.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**F**airfax County Chief of Police Edwin Roessler has named 16-year veteran Master Police Officer Lance Guckenberger as the officer who used deadly force, killing Mohammad Azim Doudzai at his home in Herndon, the scene of a double shooting and barricade incident on Jan. 16.

Roessler released the name of the officer March 2, after a protracted risk assessment and court action by the officer seeking a restraining order to stop the release of his name. This is the first FCPD officer-involved shooting since the Board of Supervisors adopted recommendations from the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, including releasing the name of the officer within 10 days of an officer-involved deployment of deadly force unless the chief determines that more time is needed to investigate or mitigate a credible threat to the officer and/or family.

Police say two men were shot inside Doudzai's house, in the 13300 block of Cov-

ered Wagon Lane in Herndon. Officers from the Reston District station responded around 2.40 p.m. on Jan. 16, after the shooting victims had already gone to the hospital. A third man was trapped inside the home with Doudzai, who police said was armed with both a gun and at least one knife. Adding to the danger of the scene were flames and smoke coming from the residence, police said.

In an attempt to de-escalate the situation, members of the Crisis Negotiations team and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team were called in to negotiate with Doudzai. Guckenberger is assigned to the Special Operations Division responsible for both those teams.

Doudzai eventually came to the front door, where Roessler said both less-lethal and deadly force were used to bring him down.

In a press conference from the scene of the incident, Roessler said the less-lethal force deployed included a taser and 40mm foam bullet. The deadly force was Guckenberger's service firearm.

The exact sequence of those uses isn't known, but should be determined at the



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE

**In a press conference from the scene of the Jan. 16 officer-involved shooting-barricade incident, Chief of Police Edwin Roessler said the less-lethal force deployed included a taser and 40mm foam bullet. The deadly force was MPO Lance Guckenberger's service firearm.**

conclusion of the ongoing FCPD investigation, medical examiner's findings and decision from the Commonwealth's Attorney.

A March 2 release from FCPD announcing the officer's name failed to mention the less-lethal force used. FCPD spokesperson MPO Don Gotthardt said in an email that detail was probably not considered due to focus being on the release of the name and

taking care of the officer.

Guckenberger has been involved with two prior cases involving use of deadly force, Roessler said the March 2 release, one in 2005 and one in 2010; in both cases the suspect survived.

The first involved a business holdup on Jan. 14, 2005 in Falls Church and an exchange of gunfire with the suspect in Bailey's Crossroads. Guckenberger received both the Fairfax County Police Silver Medal of Valor and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police's Award for Valor for his actions in 2005 incident for rescuing the store manager, according to press accounts from the time.

The second involved a man with a history of mental illness who was reportedly using narcotics. He fired at officers multiple times, police said, with what turned out to be a BB gun powered by a CO2 cartridge.

"Both of those matters were determined to be lawfully justified uses of force," Roessler said, "in which the officer used great restraint while being exposed to suspects who were using weapons against the involved officer while the officer was attempting to preserve the sanctity of human life for others."

Both criminal and administrative investigations by FCPD into the Jan. 16 incident are ongoing, police said.

## Thank You for Your Patience and Support

We at Covanta Fairfax, the Energy-from-Waste facility in Lorton, VA, wish to express our sincere gratitude to Fairfax County and the Fire and Rescue Department for their help and support during the recent fire at our facility. We would also like to thank you, our neighbors, for your patience and understanding throughout this unfortunate event.

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## Standing Together Against Hate

Lawmakers, faith leaders respond to Feb. 27 bomb threat at Gesher Jewish School.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

Students at Gesher Jewish Day School in Fairfax started their week with a bomb threat. The call came in Monday morning, Feb. 27, the head of school Dan Finkel said. Nearly 100 similar threats have been received at Jewish community centers and schools nationwide, amid recent instances Jewish cemeteries being vandalized and desecrated.

Finkel said the morning was scary, but that the school received rapid response from the FBI and local law enforcement.

"The ensuing moments were filled with love and support," he said, allowing them to more quickly get back to the primary goal of providing "outstanding education for Jewish children across northern Virginia."

Finkel spoke at a news conference Friday afternoon on March 3 at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia in Fairfax. The event was organized by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington.

Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia executive director Jeff Dannick said in response to the crimes of hate, there's a question of whether to be outwardly strong or keep a low profile.

"History has taught us always stand up against hate," he said. "There was a time when Jews did hide in fear, we'll not do that again."

Dannick and Finkel were joined by a host of elected officials, faith and community leaders standing together to condemn not just the Monday bomb threat and recent crimes against the Jewish community, but all acts of hate and intolerance.

Attorney General Mark Herring said the amount of hate crimes being committed is rising in Virginia and around the nation.

"There is something deeply wrong in our national climate, that individuals feel empowered to take action against houses of worship, against children," Herring said. No matter what you look like, where you're from, or how you pray, he continued, "You have a place in Virginia."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) said the 2016 Presidential election represented a sliding back in the history of America. As a consequence hate groups are feeling emboldened, he said.

Support, inclusion, opportunity and acceptance are basic American values, Connolly continued, which "can only grow because of these incidents."

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10)



Students at Gesher Jewish Day School in Fairfax started their week with a bomb threat. The call came in Monday morning, Feb. 27, the head of school Dan Finkel (right) said.



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova used her speaking opportunity to advertise a "United Response to Hate Speech, Bias Incidents and Hate Crimes" event, scheduled for Sunday, March 26. The event will take place from 3-5 p.m. at The Ernst Cultural Center of Northern Virginia Community College, located at 8333 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.

brought up the prevalence of the Internet in helping hate groups organize and radicalize members online. She called for providing solutions to that connectivity through law enforcement, as well as parents understanding how dangerous the web can be for impressionable children.

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) called anti-semitism "a scourge on the human community," and encouraged people to "respect, lift up, love the Jewish friends and neighbors we have."

The politicians also used their speaking out to call out President Trump for a response.

State Senate Minority Leader Dick Saslaw (D-35) echoed Connolly saying that the

2016 campaign "emboldened virtually every bigot in this country." And that it didn't help with Trump encouraging supporters to violently remove protesters from his rallies offering to pay their legal expenses.

Responding to these hate crimes, Saslaw said, "the buck stops at the White House. The most forceful act needs to come from the White House, and it needs to come in a hurry."

The Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael of Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke shared a message after the conference that he has been spreading in synagogues, mosques, his own congregation, and anyone else: embodied faith. "Take steps into the world," to counteract hate,

he encourages. "Take your time, your talents, your treasure."

To the Jews and Muslims and others who have felt targeted, Sammler-Michael said he's told them, "we will stand where you need us," whether it's behind in support, arm-in-arm, or in front, as a "holy defense line."

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More information is available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/cic](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/cic).




Students at Gesher Jewish Day School in Fairfax started their week with a bomb threat. The call came in Monday morning, Feb. 27, the head of school Dan Finkel (right) said.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



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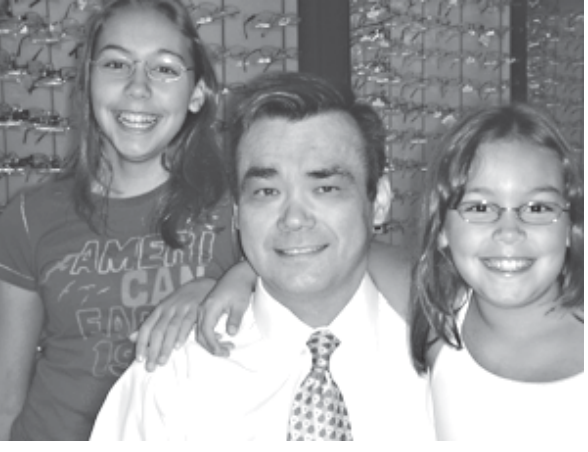
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## NEWS

From left —  
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 Safi, Rev.  
 Jarrett  
 McLaughlin,  
 the Rev. Meg  
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 McLaughlin.

PHOTOS BY  
 FRANCESCA COLE



# ‘Rising Above Fear’ at Burke Presbyterian Church

“Rising Above Fear” — that was the theme of Burke Presbyterian Church’s first Distinguished Speaker event, March 3-4. Dr. Omid Safi, the director of Duke University’s Islamic Studies Center, addressed several hundred guests, both Friday night and Saturday morning, saying, “If you love folks, you speak the truth.” Safi, who was born in the United States and lived many years overseas, is of Iranian descent and describes himself as both a citizen and an immigrant. He called for Americans to measure their greatness by their goodness, by how the nation treats its poor, orphaned, weak, and exiled. Things get better in societies when people stand together, he said, and say “we are in this together ... We should not do to other people’s babies what we wouldn’t want done to our own.” Justice is what love looks like when it’s practiced in the public square, he said. “When we extended our invitation to Dr. Safi over a year ago, we had no idea he would be presenting in such a climate,” the church’s co-pastor, the Rev. Meg Peery McLaughlin, said. “There could be no more timely topic than ‘rising above fear.’” Safi specializes in contemporary Islamic thought and Islamic spirituality. He is the chair for the Islamic Mysticism group



**Dr. Omid Safi**

at the American Academy of Religion, the largest international organization devoted to the academic study of religion. He has edited and authored multiple volumes, including “Memories of Muhammad,” an award-winning biography of the prophet. The event at Burke Presbyterian was made possible in part by the Beth Braxton Speaker’s Endowment Fund. Rev. Braxton served as pastor of the church from 1984-2011. Learn more about events and activities at Burke Presbyterian by going to [www.burkepreschurch.org](http://www.burkepreschurch.org).

— KIM DOUGLASS MARIN

## BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/) or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 11

**Social Action Linking Together (SALT).** 9-11:15 a.m. at the Virginia International University (VIU), in Conference Room (VD-102), 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. Legislators will discuss safety net issues in the 2015 General Assembly session. visit [www.S-A-L-T.org](http://www.S-A-L-T.org) or contact John Horejsi at [jhorejsi@cox.net](mailto:jhorejsi@cox.net) or Dr. Bilgin at [kbilgin@viu.edu](mailto:kbilgin@viu.edu) for more.

**Immigration Discussion Panel.** 10:30 a.m.-noon at the Kings Park Community Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Chairman Sharon Bulova and state Sen. Scott Surovell

will be leading a discussion on immigration and its impact on our Fairfax County residents. Free. Email [politicalaction@fairfaxnaacp.org](mailto:politicalaction@fairfaxnaacp.org).

**Camp Fair 2017.** Noon-4 p.m. at Audrey Moore RECenter, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. Get details about Park Authority camps. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/camps](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/camps) or call 703-324-9201.

### MONDAY/MARCH 20

**Budget Town Hall.** 7 p.m. at the West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. Supervisor Pat Herrity will be hosting, with Fairfax County Executive Ed Long. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield) for more.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 26

**A United Response to Hate Speech and Crime.** 3-5:30 p.m. in the Ernst

Room at Northern Virginia Community College - Annandale, 8333 Little River Turnpike. Brief presentations by experts who specialize in preventing hate rhetoric and hate crimes, followed by a discussion between the audience and a panel comprised of diverse religious leaders. Email [ncsinterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ncsinterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-324-3453.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 29

**Domestic Violence Workshop.** 11:30 a.m. at Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. This workshop is presented by Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood & Community Services and The FCIA Interfaith Domestic Violence Prevention Committee. Registration deadline is Monday, March 27, 2017.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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# Coalition Calls on County to Recommit

Faith communities coalition wants dedicated Energy Office.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**A**s Fairfax County prepares to update its formal Environmental Vision, the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) is calling on local elected officials to recommit to the environmental protection pledge they adopted under then-Chairman Gerry Connolly. The non-profit coalition of about 50 interfaith communities sent a red-clad contingent to support the FACS members registered to speak at the Feb. 28 meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. One after another, the speakers praised the supervisors for the county's environmental stance, but urged them to renew their dedication to the goals outlined in the pledge.

Coming from different walks of life and offering different perspectives, those who testified were united in asking the board to establish an office to oversee the transition to clean energy in the county. Peter Clifford, representing FACS member Unity Church of Fairfax, called for a department with the "authority and responsibility to address what you established" in the initial pledge. "Establishing firm goals and regular measurement," Clifford said, was the key to success in this endeavour.

In her testimony, pediatrician Dr. Samantha Adhoot of Alexandria acknowledged that the county is in a tight budget climate, but, echoing the request for an office for environmental advocacy, she warned that environmental issues were also "public health issues," with more cases of Lyme disease, asthma and other respiratory conditions occurring with the longer seasons of unusual warmth.

**THE COOL COUNTIES** Climate Stabilization Declaration, as the pledge is officially named, established the goal of reducing the D.C. region's overall greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050. It was signed on July 16, 2007. In the 10 years since, it's difficult to tell if progress is being made by Fairfax County, according to Eric Goplerud, chairman and co-founder of FACS.

In an opinion piece recently published in the Washington Post, Goplerud argues that statements about the county's efforts, made by Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, may confuse residents. In her post of Feb. 6, Bulova cited a 10 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions per capita for the county. Goplerud says the chairman was referencing a report by the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (WMCOG) published in April of 2016 and covering the years between 2005-2012. Not a timely piece of evidence



The Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions brought a red-clad contingent of supporters for their speakers at the Fairfax County Feb. 28 Board of Supervisors meeting.



John Clewett, Cindy Speas, and Ray Martin were among the supporters from The Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions who attended the Feb. 28 Board of Supervisors meeting. The group wants an Energy Office for the county.

in Goplerud's view.

Goplerud also points out that the Cool Counties commitment is for a "total reduction," in emissions, versus per capita. When the data is reviewed from that perspective, given the population growth in the county, carbon pollution may actually have risen, as the county's own 2013 "Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory" indicates. That report shows yearly greenhouse gas emissions in the county as having risen by 3 percent between 2006 and 2010, somewhat at odds with the WMCOG that credited the county with a 2 percent overall decrease in emissions during its last study period.

Kambiz Agazi, the county's environmental coordinator, has said that the lag in providing emissions data is due to the time it takes to compile the complex information, but that the county is committed to publishing the data every three years.

Goplerud and other speakers from FACS aren't willing to accept that delay. While they admit that there is an enormous amount of information to be recorded and analysed, the FACS says that Fairfax need only look at their immediate neighbors to see that measuring energy activity can be done with much more expediency.

The FACS cites Arlington County, Montgomery County in Maryland, and the District as examples of jurisdictions with more current data. Arlington reports a 21 percent reduction, Montgomery County a 10 percent decrease, and the District more than a 20 percent improvement. Fairfax provides a number of bar graphs on their "Energy Data" website to display usage of electricity and natural gas and their "equivalent

carbon emissions in metric tons" in government buildings sorted by category, but there are notations cautioning that "the data is limited by the way the facilities are metered." There are no measurements for private buildings or emission outputs related to transportation for comparison sake at this web location, but the 2013 Greenhouse Gas Inventory does include detailed measurements of emissions by source, as of 2010.

While it's difficult to make an apples-to-apples comparison on the actual results among the localities because of the types of buildings that each includes in their reporting and the dates studied, the data that the others provide is more up-to-date than what is published for Fairfax County. Goplerud and other local environmental activists believe that the difference is due in great part to those jurisdictions having dedicated energy efficiency offices to tackle the issues versus the "lone coordinator" the county employs, despite being the largest jurisdiction in the region.

The county and the activists agree that the county itself is only responsible for about 3 percent of the emissions produced in the area. The speakers all praised the county's efforts to improve their own performance, but pointed again to the goals of the Cool Counties pledge — significant emissions reductions for the region, not just the public sector which comprises such a small percentage of the emissions problem. Some, like Clifford, and FACS executive director Reba Elliott, also reminded the supervisors that much of the improvement in recent years can be attributed to the local utility companies change from coal to natu-

ral gas as the generators for their power.

"I don't think we will see such a change" from the utility companies again, said Clifford. Instead, it's "up to public-private partnerships" like the work being done in Arlington County with LEAP (The Local Energy Alliance Program).

Before the meeting, Elliott added that citizens rely on the county to use their knowledge and resources and their power to educate businesses and the public, guiding them on working toward the energy goals that "are in the best health and economic interests of us all."

**AT THE CONCLUSION** of the Public Comment period, Bulova expressed the board's thanks to the FACS speakers "for their advocacy." She spoke briefly about the county's "Energy Dashboard" which launched Phase I in March 2016 to provide an overview of the energy usage between 2006 through 2014 in four key service areas: county Government Buildings, Public Works, Parks and Housing and Human Services. The information was updated in August of 2016 to add data for usage in 2015.

Phase 2 of the Dashboard, completed in November of last year, added additional detail and in January, graphics and tables were included to show the reduction in equivalent carbon emissions.

"Thank you for pushing us for [the dashboard]," Bulova said to the FACS members. She made note of the Environmental Vision update underway, and announced that later in the year she would be reconvening her "Private Sector Energy Taskforce" for study and recommendations on how to move forward.

"It's sounds very positive," said Ray Martin after the meeting. Martin was one of the FACS supporters in attendance and belongs to the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church. "But we really need that dedicated office [of Energy]. We're here to help and do what we can. I hope they will try harder."

The Energy Dashboard can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energy/energydata](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energy/energydata). A description of the county's efforts, with links to other resources, is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environmental/sustainability/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environmental/sustainability/). The Cool Counties Pledge is also on the county's website.

# OPINION

## Independent, Civilian Oversight in Place

New auditor and panel will make an excellent police force better, more transparent and accountable.

In February, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors followed through in establishing two forms of independent oversight of law enforcement for the first time in county history.

Richard Schott will begin as independent auditor on April 17, reporting directly to the Board of Supervisors.

Nine members have been named to the county's inaugural Civilian Review Panel, chaired by Adrian Steel. More than 140 Fairfax County residents applied to be considered to serve on the panel, and those named appear to have a remarkable set of qualifications.

Independent, civilian oversight of law enforcement is a national best practice.

Schott is a 27-year veteran of the FBI where he specialized in training on officer use of force, civil rights and color of law issues. He worked on the Henry Glover and Danziger Bridge civil rights cases, prosecutions of New Orleans Police Department officers for civil rights violations after Hurricane Katrina.

The Office of the Auditor will handle cases of police use of force that result in serious injury and death and the Civilian Review Panel will handle complaints about Fairfax County Police abuse of authority or misconduct.

These methods of oversight were adopted

by the board following recommendations of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, established by Chairman Sharon Bulova in the wake of the police shooting death of John Geer and public reaction to 17 months when FCPD released no information about the case until forced to by court order.

Leadership of FCPD, especially Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr., have embraced the almost all of the 202 recommendations of the commission, which acknowledged the overall excellence of Fairfax County Police.

Nevertheless, the county's first independent auditor will come on board with work to do.

In his mandate to monitor and review internal investigations of Police Department officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths and use-of-force cases in which an individual is killed or seriously injured, Schott will begin with the investigation of the officer-involved shooting death of Herndon resident Mohammad Azim Doudzai in progress.

Among the questions for Schott will be why it took 45 days, rather than the recommended 10 days, to release the name of the officer involved in the shooting. The chief needed the additional time to fully investigate and mitigate any possible threats to the officer and his family, and respond to legal action by the officer seeking to stop the release of his name, a delay permitted by the new policy. The officer

was involved in two other uses of deadly force, one in 2005 and one in 2010, with the suspect wounded but not killed in those two incidents. (The officer received valor awards for the 2005 incident for rescuing the store manager during an armed robbery with shots fired.)

Other questions that we hope the auditor can answer for the public:

According to the chief's statement at the scene on the day of the incident, two officers used less lethal force (taser and foam bullet) while one officer fired his service weapon. Was a supervisor coordinating the plan? What was the sequence of events and uses of force? Was there an attempt to subdue the suspect without deadly force?

Why is so little additional information forthcoming about the incident? Subsequent releases have contained fewer details than were release on the day of the incident. What video exists and when will it be released?

The policy states: "It is important to note the 10 day period is primarily related to the release of officer names and is only designed as a limit to not be exceeded without cause, not a recommended standard, and the board and the public expect the Police Department to release other appropriate preliminary factual information and updates to the public as soon as possible."

Another area of inquiry is analysis of data released last year that indicates 40 percent of the subjects of use of force by FCPD are African American, while only 8 percent of the county population is African American.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Eight Pieces of Legislation with Positive Impact

BY DAVE MARSDEN  
STATE SENATOR (D-37)

### COMMENTARY

The 2017 General Assembly Session has officially adjourned Sine Die, concluding our legislative session. Over the next few weeks Governor McAuliffe and his staff will review the legislation passed and approve, veto, or amend the bills. Included this year are eight bills that I passed.

The most significant bill I had passed this year was SB1027, legislation to allow for the growing, processing, and dispensing of Medical Marijuana Oils. Three years ago, I met with Fairfax County residents who had members of their family who suffered from intractable epilepsy. Intractable epilepsy is a neurological disorder that produces serious, debilitating, and many times life threatening seizures. Many people, especially children, can suffer from hundreds of seizures a day. The severity of this ailment can't be downplayed. These fami-

lies have spent countless hours in emergency rooms trying to stabilize their loved ones and many hours seeking better treatment. The FDA approved drugs come with some of the worst imaginable side effects.

But these families, like thousands across the nation, had found a medication that helped and no side effects. CBD and THC-A Oils are non-hallucinogenic oils derived from marijuana plants. These families saw drastic reductions in seizures and emergency room visits. We are not only helping people with this legislation, but will save hundreds of thousands of dollars by not having patients rely on expensive FDA approved drugs paid for by Medicaid.

In 2015 we passed a law that made it possible for these families to possess this medication without fear of criminal prosecution. However, we did not provide them with

a way to legally procure the medication. SB1027 created Board of Pharmacy regulations that allow for the lawful growing, manufacturing, and dispensing of this medication to qualified patients. The oils will be available sometime in 2018 and I am optimistic that other disorders will be added to the list of qualifying illnesses such as Crohn's Disease, cancer, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, ALS, and perhaps others.

Another bill, SB1467, will allow election officers to start counting overseas ballots early on Election Day. Currently registrars cannot start counting these ballots until after the polls close and because of their format they must be counted by hand. In Fairfax County it takes 80 people over six hours to count these ballots, delaying the final vote tally. If you ever wondered why Fairfax County is one of the last localities to report their election results, look no further than this culprit. SB1467 will allow the elections board to begin counting these bal-

lots at 3 p.m. on Election Day.

Two hot button issues during our general assembly session included mental health reforms and our continued battle with the Commonwealth's opioid problem. I passed SB1031 that would allow access by laboratory staff to Naloxone, a pharmaceutical that helps save lives when someone overdoses on an opioid. This was an important safety measure as our state labs perform dangerous yet important tests and studies on opioids. In Virginia, more than 1,000 people died from opioid overdoses in 2016. I joined Senator Louise Lucas in passing SB 895/SB935, in response to the tragic deaths of folks who were being held in our jails instead of receiving the mental health treatment they needed. This legislation streamlines the process to allow an inmate to receive mental health treatment in a hospital while awaiting trial.

My final four pieces of legisla-

SEE MARSDEN, PAGE 7

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
south@connectionnewspapers.com

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

**Tim Peterson**  
Community Reporter  
703-314-0789  
tpeterson@connectionnewspapers.com

**Kyle Kincaid**  
Editorial Assistant  
south@connectionnewspapers.com

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sales@connectionnewspapers.com  
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**Steve Hogan**  
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**Debbie Funk**  
National Sales  
703-778-9444  
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com  
@MaryKimm

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

**Editor in Chief**  
Steven Mauren  
**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurspahic  
**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,  
Ali Khaligh  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**Special Assistant to the Publisher**  
Jeanne Theismann  
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com  
@TheismannMedia

**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427**  
**Circulation Manager:**  
Ann Oliver  
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com





## LETTERS

### Hate Crimes Have No Place In Our Communities

To the Editor:

In recent weeks there has been an alarming increase in acts of anti-Semitism at Jewish Community Centers, cemeteries, and schools, and at Muslim Community Centers and mosques. Well over 100 incidents have been reported just since the beginning of 2017, including recent bomb threats at a Jewish Community Center in Fairfax and at two mosques and a Muslim Community Center in Montgomery County. Government leaders, faith-based organizations, and our entire community should condemn these incidents and call upon law enforcement to work with the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security to seek out the perpetrators of these hate crimes and prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law.

Desecration of Jewish cemeteries and bomb threats at Jewish and Muslim schools and community centers are intended to cause fear and intimidation, and have no place on our communities. Coordinated government involvement at all levels is needed to identify and prosecute those who

are responsible for these hate crimes. Congress must ensure that funding for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice is maintained to ensure that adequate resources are available to make prosecution of hate crimes a priority. The President, Members of Congress, and our Governors should continue to speak out against the hate crimes which have escalated alarmingly. All of this will require leadership, but each of these steps is required to ensure that all Americans regardless of their religion, are free from hate crimes such as desecration of cemeteries and bomb threats at religious schools and community centers. Lastly, during the Easter season, Christian churches should take the opportunity to condemn the recent acts of hate crimes directed at Jewish and Muslim communities because of their religion, and include in the Easter liturgy a reaffirmation of the bonds of humanity shared by the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian religions.

**Brad Penney**  
Springfield

## Marsden

FROM PAGE 6

tion on the Governor's desk include SB812, an important consumer protection bill that would require home inspectors to report the presence of yellow shaded corrugated steel tubing that can cause a fire when the building that contains it is struck by lightning; SB 840, extends the life of the Commission on Civic Education; SB873, authorizes a fire chief to ban or restrict privately owned drones at the scene of fires, acci-

dents, etc.; and SB1488, which I co-sponsored with Senator Scott Surovell that would require a judge to seek reimbursement of fees from a family when a Guardian ad litem has been appointed for a child, an exemption is available for families who are unable to pay.

As you can see it was a busy legislative session. I look forward to the Governor signing these bills and seeing the positive impact they will have on our community and Commonwealth.

### FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

**Fairfax Baptist Temple**, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or [www.fbtministries.org](http://www.fbtministries.org).

**Lord of Life Lutheran** offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in

Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:50 and 10:50 a.m. 703-323-9500 or [www.Lordoflifeva.org](http://www.Lordoflifeva.org).

**JCCNV Mothers Circle** program, for women who are not Jewish but are raising Jewish children. Free education in Jewish rituals, practices and values, while respecting the participant's choice to retain her own religious identity. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax. Contact Laurie Albert, 703-537-3064 or [Laurie.Albert@jccnv.org](mailto:Laurie.Albert@jccnv.org).

**Church of the Nativity** offers a free general bereavement support group open to all adults on the first and third Thursday of each month 7:30-9 p.m. The church is located at 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke. Call 703-455-2400, ext. 17.

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PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

At 4 a.m., while most people sleep soundly, Jeffrey Connelly is up baking bread in Burke. Here he's cutting white bread before the sun is up.



During the summer, when Great Harvest Burke and Lorton have a presence at 13 farmers markets weekly, their daily count rises to 600-800 loaves.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Rise to the Occasion

Great Harvest Bread Co. Burke and Lorton owners ready for new adventure.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

At 4 a.m., while most people sleep soundly, Jeffrey Connelly is up baking bread in Burke. The Woodbridge resident said starting from scratch all the way to cutting a slice for someone to sample motivates him to perform at his best.

"You're creating something people put into their body," Connelly said. "It's providing nourishment, plus he said he's looking for that 'wow experience.'"

Connelly's team at Great Harvest Bread Co. Burke mills their own wheat in the bakery. With a set of mixers ranging up to a mighty 140-quart Hobart, as well as a cavernous 48-sheetpan oven, the bakery produces around 150-200 loaves in the winter. During the summer, when they have a presence at 13 farmers markets weekly, the count rises to 600-800 loaves.

They craft at least seven bread varieties daily, then add specials for holidays such as St. Patrick's Day and stuffing bread for Thanksgiving, as well as scones, muffins and even treats for dogs.

Aside from the company's proprietary Honey Whole Wheat bread, Connelly said he's free to bake whatever else he wants while still under the Great Harvest banner.

From the main bakery in Burke, they typically make three deliveries daily to Lorton, a satellite location that bakes some of its own bread and also functions as a cafe doing sandwiches, espresso, etc., where people can sit and read, meet socially or professionally.

Connelly's business partner Jeanette Scott Moler purchased the franchise package of both Burke and Lorton locations from original owners Jules and Nicky Verster in January 2010. They run the business together. The Burke site was built in 2004, and Lorton was opened in 2007 and relocated in 2010, Connelly said.

In Virginia, there are 10 locations of the national Great Harvest chain.

Connelly said he and Jeanette are now



From the main bakery in Burke, Connelly typically makes three bread deliveries daily to Lorton, a satellite location that bakes some of its own bread and also functions as a cafe making sandwiches, espresso, etc., where people can sit and read, meet socially or professionally.

looking for someone to buy and continue Great Harvest in Burke and Lorton while they prepare for a new adventure.

"We want people with the same passion for food, for people," Connelly said. "Someone who can do what we do, maybe do it better." Maintaining a passion for the bread and great treatment of the community are goals in looking for a new owner, he said.

**BRAD LAPISKA OF LORTON** is senior pastor of Engleside Baptist Church located in the Woodlawn area of Alexandria. He spends anywhere from 90 minutes to two hours at Great Harvest in Lorton he said, six days a week, for morning coffee and sometimes breakfast including sandwiches, scones or yogurt.

"It's a tremendous place, because of the varied seating they have there," Lapiska said. "Anywhere from one to four people can gather together for a meal or for a meeting."

The pastor has used Great Harvest in Lorton for many meetings, both social and for the church.

"It seems like no one wants to come to the office anymore," Lapiska joked. "The family feeling they have, the atmosphere, is conducive to relaxing or having a nice quiet meeting with someone."

More than just appreciating the friendly vibes and sense of community at Great Harvest, long-time customer Peggy Brookshire of Springfield said she also has great respect for people who can regularly turn out great quality bread of various kinds.

Decades ago, Brookshire remembers her grandmother and aunts in northwestern North Carolina would bake their own bread, waking at four in the morning to start it from yeast.

"[Baking bread] is a very beautiful thing to do," she said. "It's time consuming, takes a lot of energy, love and attention to pay to bread as it rises."



Owner Jeanette Scott Moler of Woodbridge poses with the mixer at Great Harvest Lorton. The paint scheme was inspired by her custom Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Brookshire says she doesn't have it in her to follow in their footsteps, especially when she can depend on a local shop to have the product. Cranking out loaves including her favorite cinnamon raisin walnut bread weekly "is no small undertaking," she said. "And it's worth every penny. If I can have that and peanut butter, I can live for years."

Regardless of their new adventure, Connelly said "bakery is like family," and they intend to keep up years-long friendships with customers and former employees, many of whom they've seen go off to college, start other jobs and get married.

"[Those relationships] are long-term, man," Connelly said, "they're not going anywhere."

To learn more, visit [www.greatharvestburke.com](http://www.greatharvestburke.com) or contact Jeffrey Connelly at [burkebread@gmail.com](mailto:burkebread@gmail.com).





Left, Rising Hope's pastor Rev. Dr. Keary Kincannon said the hypothermia shelter is an important lifeline to a lot of people in the community, providing up to 170 bed-nights per week. Left, U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8).



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Left, Sen. Tim Kaine (D) described a letter he'd received from a girl in fourth grade — in it she wrote she was sorry he had lost the presidential election with running mate Hillary Clinton, but that he still had important work to do.

## Leaders Gather in Opposition to Trump Immigration Policies

### Condemning ICE activity at Rising Hope Church in search of criminals in the country illegally.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

In response to executive orders from President Donald Trump that expand Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents' criteria for detaining and deporting people in the United States illegally, elected officials are speaking out against the action, as well as condemning recent activity by ICE officials to round up known immigrant criminals. "These new policies of the Trump administration exist to incite fear," U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) said at a press conference held March 2 at Rising Hope Mission Church in the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria. "They exist to make immigrants feel unwelcome, to make them flee. We are here to make sure that we do not destroy the remarkable, inimitable fabric of our nation of immigrants with scorched earth immigration policies."

Early in the morning on Feb. 8, multiple witnesses say ICE agents quickly surrounded guests leaving the hypothermia shelter being offered at Rising Hope. They said Latino men in particular were singled out from the group, questioned and had their fingers scanned. Six or seven of them were allegedly shackled, loaded into vans and driven away.

When asked about this account, an ICE official would only confirm that two men were arrested from that location on that date and time, and that ICE's sensitive locations policy says operations aren't to be carried out at places of worship.

**RISING HOPE'S PASTOR** Rev. Dr. Keary



**Congressional Hispanic Caucus Chairwoman from New Mexico U.S. Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-1) said reformed policies should "recognize the economic and social contributions of immigrants and uphold the protections in our Constitution."**

Kincannon said the hypothermia shelter is an important lifeline to a lot of people in the community, providing up to 170 bed-nights per week.

"When ICE swooped in, it was an attack on the practicing of our faith, our religion," Kincannon said at the press conference. "This kind of activity has to stop, this needs to be the last time."

Kincannon said they're called to serve humanity, regardless of their status.

Sen. Tim Kaine (D) described a letter he'd received from a girl in fourth grade — in it she wrote she was sorry he had lost the presidential election with running mate Hillary Clinton, but that he had still had important work to do.

"Stop my classmates from being deported," Kaine said she wrote. "Be the hero."

"The letter was about fear," Kaine continued, making statements in both English and Spanish. "The policies of this administration are policies that divide and create fear. If you do things that make our immigrant communities afraid of law enforcement, our entire communities become less safe."



**Left, Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg joined Rising Hope Pastor Keary Kincannon.**

Kaine said he was there to stand together against the new immigration policies and in support of comprehensive immigration reform.

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Chairwoman from New Mexico U.S. Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-1) said reformed policies should "recognize the economic and social contributions of immigrants and uphold the protections in our Constitution."

ICE detaining people without due process, Grisham said, is an affront to the values of the United States and "should scare every American."

"We do not support immigration policies that make all undocumented people priorities for enforcement," she said. "I just can't believe this, this is where we are headed."

Democratic Caucus Vice-Chairwoman from California U.S. Rep. Linda Sánchez (D-38) said she had recently met with both President Donald Trump and the acting director of ICE. She told Trump what happened at Rising Hope was not an isolated issue and was "appalling, wrong."

"ICE has been using heavy-handed tactics to intentionally incite fear in immigrant communities," Sánchez said. "However, raids do not make our neighborhoods safer or fix our broken immigration system."

Immigration lawyer Nicholas Marritz from the Legal Aid Justice Center in Falls

Church said there is a lot of fear in the immigrant community following Trump's orders and ICE's activity — real or perceived.

He said he and others have tried numerous times to get ICE to respond with their own account of the events of Feb. 8 at Rising Hope, as well as the names of the men who were detained there. Without them, Marritz said, it's difficult to build a case. So far ICE has refused to give them a substantial response.

**AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE**, Marritz translated a statement from a woman in the United States illegally but with children born here. Through Marritz, she said she doesn't feel like she can leave her home freely in this climate.

"Mr. President," Marritz translated for her, "you cannot make us criminals in our country. Give us an opportunity to come out of the shadows, into the light, to show what we can do. ¡Basta ya! Enough is enough!"

"I would ask the President that he govern with wisdom," the woman continued as Marritz translated, "because all of us who live in this country and under this flag have rights. May he respect the dignity of all human beings who live in the United States."

"We The People' make America great," she concluded, in English.

Standing in solidarity with the speakers were state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), state Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30), Del. Paul Krizek (D-44), Arlington County Board Vice-Chair Katie Cristol, Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg and Fairfax County School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders.

The elected officials were joined by leaders from other non-governmental organizations working on behalf of undocumented individuals and families, including representatives from ACLU of Virginia, Lenka Mendoza of Dreamers Moms in Action, and Michelle LaRue of CASA attended to endorse the rights of Virginia's undocumented population.





**Family photo of Jacob and sons (who eventually become the 12 tribes of Israel). From left: Maya Ray (Bilhah), Elizabeth Wickham (Dinah), Katie Ross (Leah), Sarah Dickson (Zilpah); Second row: Karis Kiss (Zebulun), Becca Diggs (Narrator, Gad), Garrett Gass (Benjamin), Nick Yoon (Joseph), Laura Berlin (production team), Andrew Giddings (Asher); Third row: Zach Niles (Naphtali), Carol Bryan (production team), Stephen Rosene (Jacob), Jordan Koontz (Narrator, Dan), Will Peters (Issachar); Fourth row: Colin Diggs (Reuben), Brady Wickham (Levi).**

## Musical at Burke Presbyterian

### 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' performances March 9-12.

BY RANDY LEE

What do the Bible, the Torah, the Koran, the Book of Mormon, and the West End/Broadway writing team of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice have in common? A young dreamer named Joseph, and his coat that served as the object of affection, jealousy, and redemption.

On March 9-12, Burke Presbyterian Church continues its 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive year of presenting a free musical to the community, as "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" returns to the BPC "stage" after making its last appearance in 2009. A cast of 35 talented BPC youth (7th-12th grades), a live band, and a hard-working behind-the-scenes crew will present the famous (and very child-friendly) show, based on the life of Jacob's favorite son.

With music by Webber (the composer of Cats, The Phantom of the Opera, and Sunset Boulevard), and lyrics by Rice (the lyricist of The Lion King, Aida, Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast, and Chess), Joseph was the first of their three renowned musicals (in addition to "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Evita").

Nick Yoon (a senior at Thomas Jefferson HS) portrays Joseph, a 17-year-old blessed with prophetic dreams. Sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, he is taken to Egypt, and endures a series of adventures in which his spirit and humanity are continually challenged. Set to a cornucopia of musical styles, from country-western and calypso to rock 'n' roll, this Old Testament tale emerges both timely and timeless.

Yoon, who also serves as one of the student choreographers, encourages all ages to attend: "This musical is a great, family-friendly show with lots of fun

music and characters! If you want to have a good time and learn a valuable lesson about forgiveness, then come on over and see the show."

The cast has worked collaboratively with BPC adult leaders, and added unique slapstick and vaudeville touches to the show.

The show is "sold out," but there are always people who turn in tickets the day of the performances, so if you send a request to Musical-Tickets@BurkePresChurch.org to get on the wait list, and show up at least 15 minutes before show time, there has historically been a 99 percent chance you can get a seat. March 9 (opening night) is the best chance for that. There is no charge for tickets, but free-will donations will be happily accepted at the end of each of the performances. Any donations support BPC Youth Mission Programs.

Besides Yoon, there are several seniors in their final BPC show – from Lake Braddock Secondary School: Jordan Koontz (Narrator), Josh Lee (Pharaoh), and Garrett Niles (Potiphar, Goat); from Robinson Secondary School: Colin Diggs (Judah), Maddie Dozier (Simeon), Christian Ham (Ishmaelite), Elizabeth Wickham (Dinah), and Sophia Zmorzenski (Tech Crew); and from West Springfield High School: Meagan Espinoza (Narrator, Baker, choreographer) and Andrew Giddings (Asher).

BPC has two married co-pastors, and one of them, Rev. Jarrett McLaughlin, summed up the show as "a fun and faith-filled interpretation of an important Biblical story."

From March 9-15, Hopsfrog Grille and Panisa Thai Dining in Burke, TaeJi Sushi in Fairfax Station, and Asian Grill in West Springfield are also partnering with BPC for "dinner and a show," in which the four restaurants give back 10-20 percent of their proceeds to BPC youth during the four show days, plus three days after the show ends.

Learn more at [www.burkepreschurch.org/node/453](http://www.burkepreschurch.org/node/453).

Send notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/) or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication at noon. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

#### ONGOING

**Senior Line Dancing** 1-2 p.m. Little River Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8 week session. [barbriba@hotmail.com](mailto:barbriba@hotmail.com) 703-524-3739

**Fairfax Pets on Wheels New Volunteer Orientation** First Wednesday of each month. 7:30-9 p.m. 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets On Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Visit [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org) for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at [www.fpow.org/volunteer](http://www.fpow.org/volunteer). Please do NOT bring pets to this orientation. Also, see weather policy for possible cancellations. [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org), 703-324-5424 or [dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Carolina Shag.** Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. [nvshag.org](http://nvshag.org).

**FUN-Exercise** Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. [moorefitt@yahoo.com](mailto:moorefitt@yahoo.com) or 703-499-6133.

**Exercise Program** Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd. Fairfax. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

**Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe).** Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. [RSVP.Naama.Gold@jccnv.org](mailto:RSVP.Naama.Gold@jccnv.org).

**Smoke Free Bingo.** 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot (with breaks for smoking friends). [www.fairfaxvd.com](http://www.fairfaxvd.com). 703-273-3638.

**English Conversation Groups** weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: [va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp](http://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp)

**Stories From Strawberry Park** 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays in Mosaic, Strawberry Park, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Enjoy a live interactive performance each week. For ages 10 and under. Held outside in Strawberry Park. In inclement weather and October through April, storytime will be held in Angelika Film Center. Visit [www.fxva.com/](http://www.fxva.com/)

[listing/mosaic-district/2326/](http://listing/mosaic-district/2326/).

**Funday Monday** 10:30 a.m., every Monday at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There will be music, movement, storytelling, performances, crafts, and more. It is open to children of all ages, however especially for those who haven't yet started school. Programs are free and open to the public, donations are gratefully appreciated. There is ample free parking in the downtown area, and stroller access at the rear of Old Town Hall on Main St. 703-385-7858 [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts)

#### MARCH 8-APRIL 2

**"Her Story" Art Exhibition.** Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun: 12-5 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Show focuses on how women have a role in inspiring and shaping our society. The artists will be on hand to talk about their work and the processes they use at the opening reception 6-9 p.m. on March 11. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/](http://www.workhousearts.org/) for more.

#### MARCH 9-12

##### "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

Various times at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive. A cast of 35 7-12 graders, a live band, and a hard-working behind-the-scenes crew will present the famous and family-friendly show. Visit [www.burkepreschurch.org](http://www.burkepreschurch.org).

#### SATURDAY/MARCH 11

##### Culinary Challenge and Wellness Expo.

9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Rodney Taylor, director of FCPS Food and Nutrition Services, will be a keynote speaker, and the event will feature celebrity chef demonstrations, a student culinary challenge to create dishes for school meals, public food tastings, workshops led by food experts, and prize drawings. Visit [www.realfoodforkids.org](http://www.realfoodforkids.org) for more.

**Frisbee Golf Challenge.** 10 a.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Professional Disc Golf Association tournament. Call 703-371-4873 or email at [novadiscgolf@gmail.com](mailto:novadiscgolf@gmail.com) for more.

**Polaris Piano Trio.** 3 p.m. at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, West Springfield. Featuring the works of both familiar and less-heard composers. Email [concerts@kirkwoodpres.com](mailto:concerts@kirkwoodpres.com), visit [www.kirkwoodpres.com](http://www.kirkwoodpres.com), or call the church office at 703-451-5320.

**Scholarship Gala.** 6 p.m. at the Springfield Hilton, 6550 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Second Annual Fort Belvoir Scholarship Gala hosted by the Belvoir Enlisted Spouses' Club a nonprofit organization operating out of Fort Belvoir. Email [President@belvoiresc.org](mailto:President@belvoiresc.org) or call 703-372-5574 for more.

#### SUNDAY/MARCH 12

**Pop-Up Shopping Fair.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Key Center School Cafeteria, 6404 Franconia Road, Springfield. Vendors such as LulaRoe, Beach Body, Norwex, Stella & Dot and many others will be on hand. 15 percent of proceeds will go to benefit the MOD POD – a multi sensory environment initiative for the school. Contact Kelly Zukosky, [kmzukosky@fpcs.edu](mailto:kmzukosky@fpcs.edu) or call 703-313-4000 for more.

**Purim Carnival and Silent Auction.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Congregation Adat Reyim, 6500 Westbury Oaks Court, Springfield. There are costumes, games and prizes, lunch, and silent auction. Email [publicity@adatreyim.org](mailto:publicity@adatreyim.org) for more.



# ENTERTAINMENT

**Girl's Day Hinamatsuri Festival.** 12:30-2 p.m. The Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station. Celebration includes a traditional Japanese doll display, friendship doll story as told by Girl Scout Troop 6252, Japanese calligraphy, yukata-style kimono try-on, origami dolls and a special souvenir memento. Call 703-239-0500, e-mail ekojiinfo@gmail.com or visit [www.ekoji.org](http://www.ekoji.org) for more.

**County Spelling Bee.** 1:10-5:30 p.m. at Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. 2017 Fairfax County Spelling Bee. Free. Call 703-295-9257 for more.

**Tap Ensemble.** 6:30-8 p.m. at Metropolitan School of Arts, 5775 Barclay Drive, Kingstowne. The Arts Youth Tap Ensemble is performing a preview to its 10-year anniversary show, scheduled in May, called 2x2. Call 703-339-0444 or visit [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org) for more.

**MARCH 17-18**

**Transit Driver Appreciation Day.** Thank transit drivers on Transit Driver Appreciation Day when the region observes it, March 17 (or on the actual day, March 18). In the City of Fairfax, 34 drivers keep CUE Bus on the road — and two of them, Steve Shillingburg and Lisa DePuy, have been with CUE for 25-plus years. On Transit Driver Appreciation Day, make sure the CUE Bus drivers know how valued they are. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/) for more.

**SATURDAY/MARCH 18**

**Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fairfax City Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Thousands of gently



## Anna Maria Fitzhugh

**On Sunday, March 26, the Burke Historical Society will meet at 3:30 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, at 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, where Mary Lipsey will present a talk on “Anna Maria Fitzhugh” highlighting the life of Anna Maria Fitzhugh of Ravensworth, one of Fairfax and Stafford Counties’ most prominent landowners from her widowhood in 1830 to her death in 1874. Visit [burkehistoricalsociety.org](http://burkehistoricalsociety.org) or Brian Slawski at [slawski\\_brian@yahoo.com](mailto:slawski_brian@yahoo.com) for more.**

read books and non-book media organized into categories including picture books, early readers, nonfiction, holiday, chapter books, young adult, etc. \$0.25-\$2.00. Some specials \$3 and \$4. Call 703-644-4870 or email [friendsoffairfaxcitylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoffairfaxcitylibrary@gmail.com) for more.

**AAUW 2017 Spring Fling.** 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Springfield Golf and

Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. The American Association of University Women provides advocacy for women through education, philanthropy and research. Molly Smith will be the guest speaker. \$40. Email [SpringFlingAAUW@gmail.com](mailto:SpringFlingAAUW@gmail.com) or call 703-973-3783 for more.

**St. Patrick's Day Dinner.** 6-8 p.m. at

Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. This is a fundraising event to support the many Christian outreach programs sponsored by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew Men's Group of Pohick Episcopal Church. \$15 for adults, \$40 for a family, and children under 12 are free. [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org) or call 703-680-1664 for more.

### MARCH 18-19

**SPRINGPEX 2017.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Sunday at Springfield Stamp Club Show, Robert E. Lee High School cafeteria, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Local collectors are invited to attend the show, and to display competitive and non-competitive philatelic exhibits. Free. Visit [www.springfieldstampclub.org](http://www.springfieldstampclub.org), or contact G. Frazier at [frazierg@cox.net](mailto:frazierg@cox.net) for more.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 23

**Greendale Women's Golf League.** 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre Drive. The Greendale Women's Golf Association is an 18-hole league that plays once a week on Thursday mornings at the Greendale Golf Course on Telegraph Road. The league is open to experienced golfers of all abilities. Please join us as we discuss the upcoming golf season. Call 703-399-6496 or visit [gwgl.wordpress.com](http://gwgl.wordpress.com) for more.

**Artist Reception.** 7-9 p.m. at Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. Meet the featured artist and be a part of the local artist community. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxartleague.net](http://www.fairfaxartleague.net) or call 703-587-9481 for more.

## Dentist Corner

— Evelyn Samuel, DMD

### Q. What is Gingivitis?

**A.** Gingivitis is a form of gum disease. It occurs when bacteria build up between the teeth and gums. Symptoms include gums that are swollen/puffy, red, inflamed, and/or bleeding. Pain is not always associated with Gingivitis therefore; the disease can be present and not known. If not treated, it can progress to a more aggressive disease, periodontal disease, which causes destruction of bone and eventual loss of teeth. Periodontal disease has also been linked to heart attacks, preterm delivery in expecting mothers, strokes and other systematic disease such as diabetes. There are several causes of Gingivitis. Among them are certain medications, poor nutrition, hormonal changes, other diseases, and viral/fungal conditions. However, the most common etiology is poor oral hygiene. Gingivitis is treatable and reversible. Practicing good oral hygiene in the form of brushing after each meal and flossing, will aid in preventing this condition. If the disease is present, a professional dental cleaning will remove plaque and hardened calculus that cannot be removed at home thus reversing damage.

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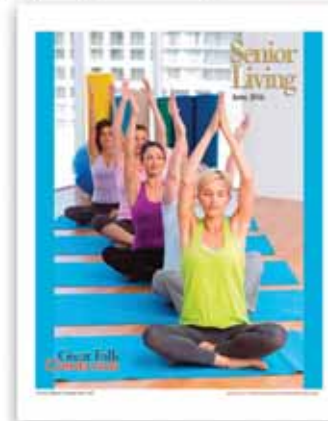
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**Oakton High School**  
**Saturday, March 18**  
 1 pm to 3 pm

*Co-sponsored by Supervisor Linda Smyth and Oakton HS Marketing Department*

**West Springfield High School**  
**Saturday, April 1**  
 12 pm to 2 pm

*Co-sponsored by West Springfield HS Student Government and Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce*

**South County Secondary School**  
**Saturday, April 29**  
 11 am to 1 pm

*Co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, South County Federation, and South County Secondary School*

**To register as an employer or student, or for more information, please visit**  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm)



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Members, from left, kneeling: Trey Cluff, MinhTu Tran and Brandon Vaca; standing: Josh Piel, Zach Wade, Christian Crawford, Joseph Carley, JR Davis, Andrea Hatcher, Seth Rothstein, Dylan Shoemaker, Eric Smith, Andrew Watson, Christos Roulades, Maria Euripides, and Zach Polnow.**

## Springfield/Burke Robotics Team Excels in 'Sport for the Mind'

The Springfield/Burke FIRST Robotics Competition Team #2421 RTR Team Robotics, came in 2nd place at their first regional event of the 2017 season this past weekend. Their robot "VULCAN" out competed 33 other teams to rack up high scores in this year's difficult "SteamWorks" field game. Participating in the ultimate "Sport for the Mind" required the 25 high school members to raise funds, design a team "brand," build and program a 120-pound industrial-sized robot all within an intense six-week time limit. The team calls it "the hardest fun you'll ever have."

The non-profit community-based team includes eight West Springfield High School students, 16 Lake Braddock Secondary School students and one homeschooler. It is sponsored by engineer mentors and par-

ent volunteers and operates out of loaned retail space at Springfield Plaza. Their budget was approximately \$12,000 and was made possible by Springfield Plaza, LLC, Rapport Companies, Boeing, Federal Acquisition Strategies, BAE Systems, and the Air Force Officer's Spouses Club of Greater Washington D.C., as well as a national grant from NASA.

2421 RTR Team Robotics's next event will be a Chesapeake Regional being held 25-26 March at South River High School in Edgewater, Md. Anyone interested is invited to attend the free competition. Schedule can be found at [www.firstchesapeake.org/index.php](http://www.firstchesapeake.org/index.php). Students who want to learn more about 2421 RTR Team Robotics should email [FIRST2421@gmail.com](mailto:FIRST2421@gmail.com) and get ready for next year's season starting in November 2017.



**Getting ready to compete, from left, Seth Rothstein (LBSS), MinhTu Tran (WSHS), Josh Piel (LBSS) and Zach Wade (LBSS).**



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3

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# LETTER

## Encouraging Response

To The Editor:

I read the article "Prayer Vigil at ICE Office" written by Tim Peterson and was comforted by the contents. The nation is undergoing a transition to a new presidential administration that has brought with it much change.

One of the things that people always pointed out about Burke was the diversity and the cohesiveness of various groups of people from different backgrounds and in different situations. When I first read the article, it seemed that the very traits that made up the identity of a resident was being disrupted by a new regime implementing policies that targeted specific people. As shown by various examples in history

and studies, it becomes hard for people to stand up to those in power and the article made it seem that such raids for the search of illegal immigrants would become more mainstream in daily life.

However, after reading about the actions and thoughts by leaders in all aspects of life such as religion, politics, and law enforcement, it became clear that those with power in the community were committed to fighting against the stigmas and stereotypes that cause certain groups to become more susceptible to abuses of power by those above them.

**Steve Hong**

Freshman, University of Virginia

## SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to an event.

**Benjamin Levenson**, of Burke, was named to the dean's list for fall 2016 at Seton Hall University (South Orange, N.J.).

**William Gregorits** and **Thomas Gregorits**, of Burke, were named to the dean's list for fall 2016 at University of the Sciences (Philadelphia, Pa.).

**Danielle Kats**, of Burke, has been named to

the 2016 fall semester dean's list at Lafayette College (Easton, Pa.).

**Taryn Falkenstein**, of Burke, was named to the fall 2016 semester dean's list at Ithaca College's (Itaca, NY).

**Megan A. Hart**, of Burke, has been named to the dean's list at Clemson University (Clemson, S.C.) for the fall 2016 semester.

**Savannah Bolton**, of Fairfax Station, made the 2016 fall semester dean's list at Stevenson University (Owings Mills, Md.).

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

Visit [tinyurl.com/fairfaxcountycic](http://tinyurl.com/fairfaxcountycic), email [ncsinterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ncsinterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-324-3453.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 30

**Nomination Deadline.** These awards recognize dedicated community service done by our youth and encourage them to continue to be active in their communities, sponsored by Eagle Bank. Cash prizes will be awarded in the tiered amounts of \$100 for elementary school students, \$200 for middle school students, and \$300 for high school students. Email [NSCAServiceAwards@gmail.com](mailto:NSCAServiceAwards@gmail.com) for more.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 31

**Scholarship Application Deadline.** The Springfield/South County (SYC) Board of Directors are sponsoring the George Angulo Scholarship Award. The \$1,000 college scholarship will be awarded annually to an area high school senior with a history of volunteer service. Visit [www.sycva.com](http://www.sycva.com) for more.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 1

**Special Education Conference 2017.** 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. The latest research, strategies, and trends in the education of students with disabilities. Over 60 workshops to choose from and over 80 exhibitors to see. Translators available. Register: [www.fcps.edu/node/33238](http://www.fcps.edu/node/33238) or call 703-204-3941 for more.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 28

**Chamber Scholarship Application Deadline.** For the following high schools - Edison, Hayfield, Lake Braddock, Lee, South County and West Springfield. Open to students in private schools, and those being home-schooled, as well. Completed scholarship applications are due back to the Chamber office by Friday, April 28, 2017. Finalists will be interviewed Tuesday, May 9. Visit [springfieldchamber.org](http://springfieldchamber.org).

### ONGOING

**Master Gardener Training.** The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics,

home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit [fairfaxgardening.org](http://fairfaxgardening.org) or call Dora Lockwood at 401-864-4778.

**Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting** 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. [fairfaxrotary.org](http://fairfaxrotary.org).

**NARFE Monthly Meeting** Every Second Tuesday 11:30 a.m. American Legion Post 177 located at 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax. NARFE Fairfax 737 monthly luncheon meeting. Enjoy lunch accompanied by a special program. Lunch at noon. Cost: \$11 Speaker/Program-12:45PM. [rrharney2@cox.net](mailto:rrharney2@cox.net) 703-501-0020

**Civil War Research** scholarship to a public or private high school senior who resides in Fairfax, Fairfax City, Prince William County, Manassas City, or Manassas Park from the Bull Run Civil War Roundtable in Centreville, Va. Visit [bullruncivilwar.org](http://bullruncivilwar.org) for more.

**Fairfax-based non-profit Britepaths offers free Financial Education Classes** Sessions at various locations in the Fairfax County area to low- and middle-income adults who reside throughout Northern Virginia. The offerings are free and open to the public, but reservations are required. <https://britepaths.org/news/get-financially-fit-new-year>

**Volunteers Needed.** PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Visit [prsinc.org/career-volunteering/](http://prsinc.org/career-volunteering/). Questions? Email [lpadgett@prsinc.org](mailto:lpadgett@prsinc.org).

**Volunteers Needed as Drivers & Office Workers** Drivers are needed for trips Monday - Friday to medical appointments and Companion Shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke serves those 50+ and who no longer drive. Office Workers are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office (Monday - Friday) of individuals requesting rides and match an available driver for each request. If you can volunteer your time, please contact the SCFB office at 703-323-4788.

**Burke Lake Seniors Golf League** seeks members. Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf League. Must be 55 and older. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season - April 1 through October 31 - are \$20 plus green fees. Call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

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### 21 Announcements

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### 26 Antiques

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According to the Lease by and between Michael Jordan (of unit 2069) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: beds, furniture, books, clothes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday March 24, 2017 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between James D Williams (of unit 4043) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: bike, TV, bedding, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday March 24, 2017 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

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# Spring 2017 HomeLifeStyle

PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON/FAIRFAX GARDEN CLUB

Local homes and gardens will be part of Virginia's Historic Garden week on Tuesday, April 25. Featured here, a home on Lake Newport. See [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org)

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# Alexandria Prepares for Historic Garden Week

**F**ive Old Town Alexandria homes and gardens will open to the public on April 22 as part of the 84th Historic Garden Week. The homes will feature flower arrangements created by the members of the Garden Club of Alexandria and The Hunting Creek Garden Club, which are sponsoring the tour, open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reston homes and gardens are open April 25 (See COVER and page 6).

See [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org) for more.

## Houses with History

❖ Four of the tour houses were built over 150 years ago, in 1794, 1802, 1820 and 1859

❖ George Washington dined in one of the tour houses in 1797

❖ A young Robert E. Lee was tutored in mathematics in one tour house

❖ Founding Father George Mason's grandson owned another of the houses

❖ Thomas, the ninth Lord Fairfax, lived in one of the tour houses.

## Gardens with Distinctive Design and Spring Flowers

❖ A garden designed by landscape designer, Jane MacLeish

❖ A spacious walled garden built on two

levels

❖ A garden elevated from the street and screened from view

❖ The gardens of Mount Vernon, the American Horticultural Society, Green Spring Gardens, Gunston Hall, Carlyle House, and Lee-Fendall House are all included with the tour ticket.

## Historic Architectural Styles

❖ What is considered to be the finest Federal house in Alexandria will be open to the public for the tour

❖ The Georgian architecture with an Italianate facade and unusual floating main staircase in one tour house

❖ Original woodwork by the prominent Alexandria craftsman who built the house in 1859.

## Alexandria Tour Details

Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$45 at [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org) and at the Alexandria Visitors Center (221 King Street). On the date of the tour, they may be purchased for \$55 at any house on the tour or at the Alexandria Visitor's Center. Group tours of 20 people or more, \$40 per person. Single site tickets are \$25 per person. The Alexandria tour will be held on its scheduled day, rain or shine.



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2. not appreciated or understood.  
3. no longer owned or known



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**BEFORE:** Above, owners Jack and Marie Torre wanted square footage for a larger kitchen and dining room, but “set-back” rules prohibited building in the rear, and the front-facing roof overhang limited options for re-designing the facade.

**AFTER:** Best Whole House Makeover in 10 states, left: Sun Design Remodeling’s conversion of a circa 1960s split-level into a neoclassical style residence has been named a regional “Contractor of the Year” (COTY) winner by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

# From Split-Level to Neoclassical

## Conversion wins regional “Contractor of the Year” award.

BY JOHN BYRD

Converting a circa 1960’s split-level into a spacious neoclassical-style residence has won Sun Design Remodeling a regional “Contractor of the Year” award from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. The Fairfax residential makeover was named the best whole house remodeling in the “\$250,000 to \$500,000” range in a 10-state area that extends from Maryland and Florida to as far west as Tennessee. Owners Jack and Marie Torre have been so pleased with the outcome that they’ve held an several open houses just to show the changes to curious neighbors. Another open house will be held in the annual Parade of Home, April 22-23.

To accommodate the owner’s requirements, Sun Design added a 300-square-foot addition, introduced a front veranda with a foyer, and elaborated the exterior in a wholly new architectural language.

The Torres had purchased the 3,000-square-foot brick and siding structure in 1984, and found a perfect spot for raising children. As the children moved on, however, the couple recognized that the changes they wanted to make to the house were apparently infeasible.

“We couldn’t add on to the rear because of set-back restrictions,” Jack Torre said. “The bigger problem, though, was a six-foot roof overhang in front, and the seven steps

required to walk from the ground level foyer to the primary living area.”

The couple were actively looking at relocating when a chance visit to a Sun Design remodeled split-level nearby convinced Marie Torre to make an appointment with Bob Gallagher, the company’s president.

In the first meeting, a “wish list” emerged that included a larger kitchen, a formal dining room with a tray ceiling, a family room with a view of the tree-lined back yard, and a spacious first-level powder room.

With these goals in mind, the design team focused on how best to configure the essential components within a well-inte-

grated whole.

Since new space couldn’t be added on the rear, the east side of the house was designated for the new dining room/sitting room wing.

Still more problematic: under the existing plan, one entered the house from a narrow front foyer — ascending to a main level hall that segued in three directions.

What was missing, Gallagher observed, was a “procession” in which rooms unfold in an inviting orderly sequence.

“The structural challenge was finding an optimal way to raise the front door to the main level of the house,” Gallagher said.



**The split-level’s former bow window was converted to a set of French doors which overlook the new veranda. Though the execution makes the addition hard to detect, the dining room beyond the fireplace is actually in the home’s new wing.**

“This would require extending the front foyer eight feet to get past the existing roof overhang. We also needed to redesign the front elevation to better rationalize the difference between the grade at ground-level and the home’s main living area — a distance of about seven feet.”

What evolved was not merely a larger foyer, but an improved and more appropriate architectural context that allows for a front verandah that surrounds and presents the front entrance to the home.

The resulting interior meanwhile revolves around two comparatively modest additions: a 44-square-foot foyer aligned with the front door; 300-square-foot west wing that houses a formal dining room and an adjacent rear-of-the house sitting area.

The new addition includes a two-sided fireplace visible in the living room. The enlarged kitchen now accommodates a custom-designed banquette, and storage pantries.

The gourmet kitchen, according to Marie Torre, provides spaces for all cooking utensils, even items formerly stored in the basement.

Replacing the roof over and raising the ceiling from eight feet to nine feet has made the living room feel substantially larger.

Better yet, the remade rear elevation — which includes a “bump-out” with divided light windows and French doors — invites abundant natural light.

“This is a completely different house,” said Marie Torre, “One much more satisfying to occupy.”

*Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors design and remodeling seminars as well as tours of recently remodeled homes. Headquartered in Burke, Sun Design also maintains an office in McLean. Visit [www.SunDesignInc.com](http://www.SunDesignInc.com).*



# Sow Now, Reap this Spring

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

One of the most anticipated sights of spring is a garden in bloom. While the project of tackling a yard or garden after a dormant winter can seem daunting, horticulturalist Misty Kuceris of Burke Nursery & Garden Centre says an organized plan will make the task manageable.

"First walk around your yard and look at what's happened over the winter months," she said. "Look at your trees and shrubs. Do they need pruning before things really start growing?"

Flower and garden beds should be surveyed as well, says Kuceris. "If you didn't clean out the flower beds and vegetable beds at the end of fall, you need to do that," she said. "Take a look at whether you need to add more compost to make the soil better."

Even after flowerbeds are clean, David Watkins, general manager of Merrifield Garden Center says that homeowners should wait before planting warm season flowers like impatiens and begonias. "You want to hold off until the last frost is gone, he said. "Some nurseries however have tulips and daffodils that are already potted. Those can be planted now. There is also a



PHOTO BY MISTY KUCERIS

**March is a great time to plant trees, like these Dogwoods.**

Lenten Rose which blooms from February until June and you can add color to your yard that way."

Kuceris also suggests reestablishing the weathered edging of a garden bed and add-

ing new mulch when necessary. "The other thing that is good to do every two years is a soil test," she said. "Find out the pH is of your lawn and garden." Soil pH is a measure of the acidity and alkalinity in soils.

Getting a garden and yard ready for warm weather.

One source that Kuceris recommends is the Virginia Tech Soil Testing Laboratory. Researchers analyze soil samples submitted by the public and perform tests to evaluate the soil's nutrient potential. The tests also help researchers determine the most beneficial application rates of fertilizer and lime for optimum plant growth.

After the garden is tidy and the soil is prepared, vegetables can be planted. "If you have a vegetable garden, March is the best time to plant potatoes, scallions, onions, asparagus, lettuce, kale, cauliflower, broccoli, and even horseradish because those plants love spring," said Kuceris. "We call them cool season plants."

If weeds are an issue, you can apply a weed and crabgrass preventer and fertilizer," says Kuceris. "For a natural alternative, you can use corn gluten meal as a natural weed suppressant and fertilizer for grass lawns."

"With anything you plant now, the roots are going to start growing and you'll have a much better established plant by summer," added Watkins.

Most trees or shrubs can also be planted now, says Watkins. "Now is a great time to mulch and fertilize your trees, shrubs and lawn," he said. "That alone makes it look a lot better, even without planting."

## Educating Customers Is Key to Success

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

It's been 18 years since Ken Nies co-founded Two Poor Teachers, LLC, but the kitchen and bath remodelling company isn't resting on its laurels. "We always want to earn an 'A+' from our customers," said Nies. "That hasn't changed since Day One."

Nies started the company in 1999 with then-partner Tom Pennell. Both were Fairfax County physical education teachers at the time, and their collaboration was originally meant to be a sideline to their "day jobs,

but before too long, Nies retired from teaching in order to focus fully on the rapidly growing company in Chantilly.

He may have left teaching behind, but his background and devotion to education still comes through when Nies speaks about the importance of educating homeowners on the ins and out of remodelling work, and the "dangers of dealing with unlicensed contractors." He has produced numerous "whiteboards" and videos available on YouTube that explain the local and state laws governing the business and the importance of compliance for the homeowner. Two Poor Teachers is fully licensed, employs

master plumbers, electricians and HVAC experts, is LEED certified and the highest liability insurance license offered in the state.

According to Nies, Two Poor Teachers handles between 200-300 bathroom projects and 25 kitchen remodels per year in their Northern Virginia service area, with much of their business coming from repeat customers and referrals from satisfied clients, but Nies insists that the key to their continued success really isn't a secret.

"Education. Making sure homeowners have all the facts they need to make good decisions," is the foundation for success in Nies' opinion. "Guaranteed start and completion times are really attractive to potential clients," he added. Anyone who has ever undertaken one of these home remodelling projects, only to see the finish deadline move further and further away from the original date promised during the bid proposal, will no doubt agree.

Another attraction for the homeowner when choosing a contractor is the fact that Two Poor Teachers only requires 10 percent down to start the work, and generally "don't ask for another penny until the job is completed." Many contractors require the down payment, and then ask for ongoing "draw" funds periodically throughout the length of the project.

## New manager joining Two Poor Teachers after 18 years in business.

Nies also says that the company gives their customers all the discounts they receive at the speciality stores where they have established strong vendor relationships.

It was because of just those kinds of relationships that Nies was able to recruit Jeremiah Klein to take over the reins as Two Poor Teachers' next general manager, when he felt it was time to become "just a little less hands-on." Klein had been associated with the contractor for some five years, when he worked as an agent for a wholesale plumbing supplier and kitchen and bath showroom, after years working in the field.

"I feel great about handing the reputation of our company to Jeremiah," said Nies.

Klein feels just as good about his decision to join Nies and company. Saying he had a choice of outfits when considering his next career move, Klein calls the Two Poor Teachers gang "a different bracket of contractor. It's great working with all of our own employees, professionals who have been with the company no less than 10 years, and some even longer."

Since the arrival of Klein, Two Poor Teachers has expanded the options it can offer customers, including more flexibility on where to procure the project materials. See [www.twopoorteachers.com](http://www.twopoorteachers.com) or call Klein at 703-999-2928.

## Perennial of the Year

BY CAROLE FUNGER  
THE CONNECTION

The designation Perennial Plant of the Year is awarded each year by the Perennial Plant Association to the perennial that outshines its competitors not only in appearance, but also in its noteworthy characteristics. To be considered, a plant must be able to grow in a wide range of climates, require little maintenance and have multiple seasons of in



**The butterfly weed**

SEE PERENNIAL, NEXT PAGE



# HomeLifeStyle Perennial of the Year

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

terest. And, it should be relatively pest and disease free.

That's a tall order for many plants, but late last year, orange-flowering butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) more than rose to the occasion. In November it was voted 2017 Perennial Plant of the Year, becoming the 27<sup>th</sup> in a distinguished line of perennials to receive such an honor.

## What makes butterfly weed so special?

Native to much of the continental United States as well as Ontario and Quebec, butterfly weed grows wild in a variety of climatic conditions including dry forests, along roadsides and in prairies and open fields. A member of the milkweed family, it tops out at about 1 to 2 feet. Its natural preference for average to dry soil makes it an excellent drought-resistant plant.

Butterfly weed's large clusters of flowers are a brilliant orange-yellow, a beacon among other subtler-toned plants. Happily blooming from June through August, they produce copious amounts of

nectar that attracts hordes of butterflies, birds and a wide assortment of insects. The distinctive flowers are composed of five petals that stand up (called hoods) and five petals that hang down. The hoods enclose a single orange horn that when cross-pollinated, forms a follicle. Later in the season, the follicle opens up along one side to disperse silky-tailed seeds.

Not to be outdone, butterfly weed's foliage has its own attractions. Long and pointed, the 4" leaves provide food for the larvae of native Monarch butterflies, while also lending a deep green backdrop to the brilliant flowers.

Plant butterfly weed in full sun in well-drained, moderately dry soil. For an eye-catching composition, pair it with other strong-hued perennials like *Liatris spicata*, *Echinacea* 'Double Scoop Raspberry' and *Hemerocallis* 'Stella D'Oro.' Or, let its orange flowers shine amidst subtler toned flowers like lemon-yellow *Hemerocallis* 'Happy Returns', white *Phlox* 'David' and apricot *Cosmos*.

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# HomeLifeStyle Tour Area Gardens

Garden Club of Virginia hosts  
84th Annual Historic Garden Week.

**D**uring the last eight days of April every year nearly 26,000 visitors tour homes and gardens across Virginia.

This year, Historic Garden Week features 30 tours organized and hosted by 47 Garden Club of Virginia member clubs. Nearly 250 private homes, gardens and historic sites will be open. For nearly a century the Garden Club of Virginia has been committed to preserving the beauty of Virginia for all to enjoy. Garden Club of Virginia members were early leaders in conservation and environmental concerns. Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of more than 40 of Virginia's historic public gardens and landscapes, a research fellowship program and a centennial project with Virginia State Parks.

## RESTON TOUR Tuesday, April 25

Reston was once a summer playground for fashionable Washingtonians during the 1800s. This Fairfax County locality became the first modern post-war planned residential community in America when it was developed in the 1960s, sparking renewed interest in planned communities. Brainchild of Robert E. Simon, Reston was imagined as an urban landscape in a rural setting — a place to live, work, and play, both vibrant and peaceful. Neighborhoods nestled around lakes and intertwined with lush gardens, green spaces, and walking paths are just minutes away from the effervescent hub of Reston Town Center's art galleries, shops, restaurants, and year-round outdoor entertainment. This walking and driving tour features a transitional house and garden, three modern homes with gardens on Lake Newport, and a garden-only site.

Hosted by Garden Club of Fairfax, the tour headquarters and facilities are at The Lake House, 11450 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston.

Tickets, maps and restrooms are available on tour day, April 25.

**Tickets:** \$40 per person available on tour day, and at homes open for tours.

**Advance tickets** are \$30. See [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org). By mail before April 10, send a self-addressed stamped envelope and check made out to "The Garden Club of Fairfax" to Marty Whipple, 11508 Yates Ford Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22093. 703-978-4130. [Fairfax@vagardenweek.org](mailto:Fairfax@vagardenweek.org).

Google Garden Club of Fairfax for detailed information and a list of local retailers selling tickets.

Complimentary refreshments will be served 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lake House. Reston Town Center, Lake Anne, and North Point Village Center are minutes away and offer a variety of eateries and lunch options for visitors.

The hospitality center and tour headquarters is located in the Lake House, a newly renovated building. There are two rooms for public use, the Lakeside Room that offers access to the deck overlooking Lake Newport (50 person capacity) and The Lake View Room (100 person capacity) that has



PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON/FAIRFAX GARDEN CLUB

**Reston homes and gardens will be part of Virginia's Historic Garden week on Tuesday, April 25. Featured here, a home on Lake Newport Road. See <http://www.vagardenweek.org>**

a natural light-filled setting with a fireplace. For more information visit [www.reston.org](http://www.reston.org).

The Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston, will be open to visitors from noon to 3 p.m. on Tuesday. Resident naturalist will be on hand to answer questions. Tours are self-guided. See [www.facebook.com/walkernaturecenter](http://www.facebook.com/walkernaturecenter). It features: LEED Gold education building known as Nature House, 72 acres of woodlands, one mile of loop trails, picnic tables and pavilion, pond, trailside benches, interpretive signs, memorial sundial, demonstration naturoscaping gardens, the Glade Stream Valley, and Snakeden Branch stream's entrance to 44-acre Lake Audubon.

Reston Town Center opened in 1990 with the opening of the block between Library

Street and Presidents Street, including the center's hub which features the 20-foot Mercury Fountain designed by the sculptor Saint Clair Cemin. With the open air glass Pavilion added in 1993, this is a community destination for shopping, dining, special events, and ice skating in winter. It has expanded to become a outdoor venue offering more than 50 retailers, more than 35 restaurants, luxury residences, hotel, multi-screen cinema, as well as, host to several festivals throughout the year.

Lake Anne Village Center is home to independently owned retail, dining, and service establishments. Dine in restaurants featuring both ethnic and traditional American menus. Take a picture sitting beside the bronze statue of Robert E. Simon, take a

nature walk around the lake, select a hand-crafted chocolate, pick up a special treat or toy for your pet, or find the perfect gift for your favorite bibliophile. Free wi-fi is available throughout the plaza. North Point Village Center is situated in the heart of this year's tour, offering an appealing variety of dining establishments and specialty stores.

## HOMES AND GARDENS ON RESTON TOUR April 25

**Round Pebble Lane Garden only:** This 20-year-old garden completely surrounds the home and provides the owners with the space for both sun-loving and shade-loving plants, shrubs and trees. An experienced master gardener at a local garden center, Kate Buschelman inherited her mother's love of gardening. Solely planted and maintained by the owners, this property expresses their love of color, foliage and their vision of serenity among relaxed wandering paths. The walkway to the front explodes with a myriad of color and texture from numerous spring annuals and bulbs, many in blues and whites, and sun-loving flowering plants. On the corner lies a bank of showy seven-foot-tall budding "Lime-light" hydrangeas. The tranquil back garden beckons a meandering walk through a sun-dappled, woodland setting in which foliage predominates. Kate and Gary Buschelman are the owners.

**Stones Throw Drive:** The stone and brick path to the house features an English cottage garden with colorful annuals and perennials planted to provide interest year round. This 1998 home incorporates traditional elements with an open floor plan and lofty ceilings that allow for an abundance of natural light. The first floor includes an array of furnishings, from 18th century English antiques to 20th century American Impressionist art. The landscaped backyard is a private retreat, highlighted by a waterfall and pond, multiple patios, a stone bar area, fireplace complete with pizza oven, and a hot tub surrounded by a trellis.

**Lake Newport Road:** This updated 1989 modern home welcomes visitors with a light-filled foyer. Neutral faux-painted walls, vaulted ceilings, skylights, and a wall of glass across the rear of the home offering a view of Lake Newport and the home's landscaped gardens create a contemporary and airy interior. The outdoor patio and garden include an array of colorful annuals and perennials, a gas fire pit, recirculating waterfall, and a dock shaded by a willow tree. Cindy and Richard Beyer are the owners.

**The Deck House, Lake Newport Road:** Built in 1988, this three-level, mid-century modern home is reminiscent of the Frank Lloyd Wright style. Construction is post-and-beam with high ceilings of solid cedar and fir beams. The wall of windows

SEE TOUR, PAGE 7



# Gardens Open Historic Garden Week

FROM PAGE 6

with expansive lake views and rich, natural wood floors, walls and ceilings, bring the outdoors in. Taking advantage of the dramatic south-facing waterfront setting, natural energy sources are used for cooling and heating with a thermal reservoir in the limestone floor of the conservatory providing heated air released into the heating system. The deep roof overhang and energy efficient windows promote cooling in summer. The solarium houses the owners' bonsai and orchid collections. The garden's two ponds, waterfall and fountain attract many varieties of birds. A brick patio framed by two large willows leads to three lakeside flower beds providing habitat for birds and butterflies. Lezley McIlveen and Donald Wright are the owners.

**Windchimes, Lake Newport Road:** Indoors and out, this multi-level contemporary home with views of Lake Newport from almost every room reflects the homeowners' love of waterfront living, art and the Southwest. Built in 1986 with an open floor plan and soaring ceilings, light streams in through large windows and skylights; the two large round windows are the signature feature of the 1980s Reston CP1 architectural style.



PHOTOS BY DONNA MOUTON/FAIRFAX GARDEN CLUB

**Reston homes and gardens will be part of Virginia's Historic Garden week on Tuesday, April 25. Featured here, a home on Lake Newport. See [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org)**



**On April 22, 2017, five of Old Town Alexandria's finest private homes and gardens will open to the public, as part of the 84th Historic Garden Week.**

Mature trees shade the deck, providing a perfect setting for outdoor dining, entertaining and enjoying sightings of bald eagles, hawks, herons, native songbirds, ducks, geese and large turtles. Colorful blown-glass spikes are found throughout the garden, along with blown-glass balls in the courtyard pond. The woodland garden has Japanese maples, redbud, mature oaks, grasses, hostas and rhododendrons, with native water plants along the lake. Robin and Steven Greenstreet are the owners.

**Leesburg and Oatlands Sunday & Monday, April 23-24**

Oatlands is one of the last of the great houses built by the descendants of Robert ("King") Carter. Construction began in 1804.

Conveyed to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1965, the Garden Club of Virginia completed its first restoration project there, of the north forcing wall, in 1992. Two years later, English boxwood that had fallen prey to "boxwood decline" were replaced on the affected terraces using proceeds from past Historic Garden Week tours.

**Old Town Alexandria, Saturday April 22**

See [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org)

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## Kitchen Design Trends to Expect in 2017

Local designer share popular design ideas.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**T**hose looking for kitchen design ideas have a new source of inspiration: the National Kitchen & Bath Association's (NKBA) list of trends for 2017. Local designers reveal which trends are most popular in the Washington, D.C. region.

NKBA predicts that contemporary-styled kitchens will overtake traditional to become the second most popular design after transitional. Locally, Michael Winn, president of Winn Design + Build expects to see "a strong move towards transitional and contemporary styles, with no fussy designs."

Homeowners are looking for "kitchen spaces that look comfortable, calming and clutter-free," said Shannon Kadwell of Anthony Wilder Design/Build, Inc.

Clean lines, built-in shelving and simple door styles dominate kitchen designs. Megan Padilla, senior designer for Aidan Design reports an interest in custom storage ideas. "We're inspired by our work with clients who often have collections of table



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN-GOLDBERG

**White and gray painted cabinets like those in this kitchen by Winn Design + Build will dominate kitchen color schemes in 2017.**

décor — everything from antique trays to vintage oyster plates," she said. "By creating custom storage these cherished items can be readily accessible."

When it comes to painted cabinetry, gray is the new white and the popularity of both colors shows no signs of slowing down, ac-

cording to the NKBA survey. However, blue painted and high gloss kitchen cabinets are emerging, especially in the Washington area, says Winn. "Blues and grays are very popular [and] "White continues to be popular."

For overall color schemes, two-toned kitchens are gaining popularity while blue and black are emerging as sought after colors. "We're seeing a rise in product offer-



PHOTO BY JOHN COLE

**Clean lines, built-ins and neutral colors, such as those in the kitchen of this Potomac, Md. home by Anthony Wilder Design/Build, Inc., are expected to be popular in 2017.**

ings available in matte black — from appliances to plumbing fixtures to cabinet hardware," said Padilla. "We love it paired with white in a classic black and white kitchen, but also as an accent piece. Matte black also pairs beautifully with brass, which has been trending for the past couple of years."

Quartz is the most sought-after kitchen countertop material, followed by granite. "Most of our clients aren't really interested in a kitchen that [is] too trendy since they plan to have it in place for 15-20 years," said Padilla. "We've seen an uptick in interest in incorporating color by way of alternate neutrals. Navy blue is probably the top choice, but taupes and lighter blues are also on the list."

An interest among homeowners in incorporating technology in kitchen design is increasing as well. About one third of the NKBA professionals surveyed reported recent projects that included wiring and pathways for future tech integration. "I would also expect the technology side to be a focus in D.C.," said Samantha Klickna, project developer with Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. "The ease and comfort of controlling your home while at the office or on travel is very appealing and convenient for the city dweller."

Induction cooktops and convection ovens are trending higher, and microwave drawers are surpassing free-standing or built-in microwaves in popularity. "People have been purchasing appliances like steam ovens and induction ovens now more than ever before," said Kadwell. "People have less time, but still want to cook. They want to be able to cook quickly, so they're looking for appliances that can accomplish that."

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PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN-GOLDBERG

**"I would also expect the technology side to be a focus in D.C.," said Samantha Klickna, project developer with Case Design/Remodeling, Inc.**

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PHOTO BY ANGELA SECKINGER

**Design trends for 2017 include kitchens with rustic and reclaimed woods, such as this one by Aidan Design.**